

# KARNS MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

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## 2021-2022 Band Syllabus

### A Note from the Directors:

Welcome to the KMS band! The purpose of this syllabus is to help you better understand the expectations and activities involved with our middle school band program. Take a minute to go over all the information in the syllabus and complete the digital acknowledgment form below. You may use a digital signature for acknowledgement.

We are extremely proud of the students and band program at KMS and realize that it takes an intentional effort on the part of the students and families to maintain the pride and dedication needed for a truly outstanding band program. We look forward to an exciting year, and with your student's dedication and your continued support, this year can be great! Please do not hesitate to call or email us if you ever have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bowling and Ms. Bray

### I. Course Outcome:

Throughout a student's three years in the band program at KMS, it is our goal that they become a

proficient musician, ready to make an immediate, positive contribution in a high school ensemble. This goal is achieved by adhering to the local curriculum guide, which also relates directly to the state and national music standards.

## II. Fees and Required Texts:

### 1. Fees (**All applicable fees are due by August 27**):

These fees are different than those for academic classes and should be paid to the KMS Band

- a. **Participation Fee \$50.00 for the year.**
- b. **School Owned Instrument Rental Fee: \$75 for the year. This fee ONLY applies to students who rent an instrument from KMS.**

Fees may be paid online [HERE](#) with a credit card, or by checks (one for each fee). Make checks payable to KMS Band, and please write your child's name in the MEMO line.

### 2. Required Books and Music:

- 6th Grade: **Accent on Achievement, Book 1**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: **Essential Elements, Book 1** and **Foundations for Superior Performance**
- 8th Grade: **Foundations for Superior Performance**

These books can be obtained locally at Rush's Music, Lunsford's Music, and Lane's Music. Students must have their books in order to receive full credit for daily participation.

## III. Starting Timeline

-7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands will tentatively begin using instruments on August 23<sup>th</sup>

-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginning Band will tentatively begin using instruments on August 30<sup>th</sup>

If instrument repairs or rentals are needed, please have them completed by these dates.

## IV. Classroom Rules and Expectations:

Rules:

1. Respect yourself and others along with their property
2. Keep hands and feet to yourself at all times
3. No food, drink (water is acceptable) candy, or gum is allowed in the band room
4. Be attentive and on task

5. Do not run in any area of the music suite
6. Do not throw anything
7. No cell phones or electronic listening devices, unless specifically directed by a teacher

Expectations:

1. Have instrument and materials (including Chromebooks) present and in good working condition for every class. Failure to have items in class will result in a reduction of the student's weekly participation grade. Chronic problems with this could ultimately result in removal from the band program.
2. All students are to enter the room in an orderly fashion and be seated with their instrument, music, etc. at the scheduled start of class. If you are not in your seat with your instrument ready to play three (3) minutes after the scheduled start of class, you will be marked tardy. If a teacher holds a student after class and causes the student to be late, the student must get a written note from the teacher **prior to entering the band room.**
3. Students are not to talk, make noise, or play instruments without the expressed permission of the director during class. Disruptions will not be tolerated. Violations in this area will result in disciplinary action. If a teacher has to stop class in order to discipline a student for any reason, this will result in a teacher/student conference at the end of class. Subsequent infractions will be entered into the school's discipline log.
4. The instrument storage rooms are for storage of instruments and music only. Students should treat the instrument storage rooms with respect. If students are found mistreating the storage areas or using the storage areas incorrectly, their privilege of using these facilities will be revoked.
5. In the mornings (8:00 – 8:25), students may come to the band room to drop off their instrument, practice, or make up missed playing tests. Students are not permitted in the music suite without an adult present. There is no "hanging out" in the music suite in the mornings.

## V. Performance/Concert Uniform:

The KMS band will perform **in black pants/skirt, white top (no tie), and tennis shoes.** Parents are responsible for purchasing all parts of the uniform. Students must be in uniform in order to perform with the band.

## VI. School Owned Instruments:

**Instrument care is the responsibility of the student once an instrument has been assigned.** There is a maintenance fee of **\$75 per year** to use a school owned instrument. This covers normal wear and tear of the instrument, case, and parts. **Any damage found above and beyond normal wear and tear is the responsibility of**

**the student and parent.** Understand that if you play a school owned instrument, you need to purchase a mouthpiece/reed, oil, grease, etc. to maintain the instrument. Please fill out and return the School Instrument Rental Agreement.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Percussionists:** Take your sticks and mallets every day from class in the stick bag. Sticks and mallets that are left in the band room are often broken and lost.

## VII. Instrument Storage Etiquette:

Instruments and folders are to be stored in the proper cubby during the day. Cases are to be upright and latched with your instrument in them. You need to **take your instrument home with you after school every day.** You cannot prepare for class if you leave your instrument at school! Neither can you get your daily practice time in. Stickers and tags should identify your personal instrument (not school owned). Also, make sure **your name is in your book (in ink)** as these are often left in the band room. Students who share a school-owned instrument should remove their personal mouthpiece, etc. from the case at the end of each class.

**Personal items should not be left in the instrument storage rooms! KMS accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen property.**

## VIII. Grading:

Grades will fall into two categories, “Tests” and “Weekly Participation”. Scheduled concerts will be counted as four test grades. (Either four 100s, or four 0s.)

Level-ups (Tests) (60%):

Each student will be assessed 3 to 5 times per nine week grading period. These “level-ups” will be very short exercises or selections from their current concert music. The due dates for level-ups will be announced at least a week in advance. If a student is not prepared on the day of the level-up or chooses to not turn participate in the assessment, they will be given a 0 until they have played the material for one of the directors. Should a student not be satisfied with a level-up grade, **they will have unlimited opportunities within the current 9 weeks to retest and replace that grade.** Retakes must be done before school from 8:00 - 8:30 AM or submitted via Canvas..

Required Performances:

**This class has a mandatory, after-school performance component. Each performance will count as four (4) test grades. If for some reason a student has to miss a required performance, an email or parent note must be sent to the directors a minimum two (2) weeks prior to the concert.** The absence will then be classified as excused or unexcused according to the discretion of the director. If your student is sick the day of the concert, or if there is an emergency, then an email or parent note must be sent the next day.

Please be aware that excessive unpreparedness for class may result in exclusion from the concert. Should this be the case, students will be given an alternate assignment that will substitute for the concert grades.

**Missing a concert with an unexcused absence will result in four (4) test grade 0s.** Excused absences can be made-up by playing the concert individually for one of the directors. Students are required to make an appointment with a director before or after school. Makeups MUST be accomplished within a calendar week of the student's return to school. Failure to complete this make-up assignment will result in four 0s.

Weekly Participation (40%):

This component of the grading system is determined by a student's ability to fully participate in class each day. Students will begin each week with a 100 for their grade. Should they not be prepared or choose to not participate in the lesson, their weekly grade will be lowered by a proportional number of points (100 points/number of instructional days that week).

## IX. Bands and other Performance Opportunities:

Concert Band:

This is the term that will be used for the groups performing at the winter and spring concerts. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students will perform in these groups. This is their required performing ensemble.

Jazz Band:

The Jazz Band is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Jazz Band will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 4:00-5:30. Students involved with Jazz Band must commit to being at 80% of rehearsals and 100% of public performances in order to be accepted into the group.

ETSBOA Jr. Clinic:

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may audition for this ensemble. This honor ensemble is comprised of middle school students from the greater Knoxville area. There is a \$10.00 audition fee (due in September) for this ensemble and auditions are in November. If chosen for Jr. Clinic, students will rehearse for and perform a concert over the course of two days in early December.

Knox County Middle School Honor Band:

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be nominated by the director for participation in this clinic band. This typically occurs in January or February. More information will follow.

KMS Percussion Ensemble:

The KMS Percussion Ensemble is an auditioned, competitive group, open to all KMS percussion students. Students in the Percussion Ensemble will be required to attend after-school rehearsals (rehearsal schedule TBD) from late November to early April. The KMS Percussion Ensemble will compete in a regional circuit, and competitions will take place on select Saturdays from late January to early April at various high schools in the East Tennessee area. There is a participation fee for this group.

## XI. Recommended Instruments:

Instruments come in all shapes, sizes, and varying degrees of quality. If you would like your student to have a good quality horn that will make a better sound, provide a more satisfying experience in band, and spend less time with their instrument in the shop, a higher quality instrument can provide that experience. Therefore, if you are looking into buying an instrument for your student, there are several brands that are reputable and recommended. Here is a list of instruments and brands that are recommended for purchase:

**Flute:** Gemeinhardt, Bundy, Jupiter, Armstrong, Yamaha, Eastman

**Clarinet:** Selmer, Bundy, LeBlanc, Buffet, Yamaha, Armstrong

**Saxophone:** Selmer, Yamaha, Jupiter, Bundy

**French Horn:** Please consult Mr. Bowling directly if planning to purchase or rent a french horn.

**Trumpet:** Bach, Bundy, Getzen, Holton, Jupiter, Yamaha, Conn, Blessing, King, Eastman

**Trombone:** Bach, Yamaha, Conn, King, Jupiter, Getzen, Holton, Eastman

**Baritone:** Please consult Mr. Bowling directly if planning to purchase/rent a baritone.

Percussionists in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will rent bell kits that have bells and a drum-pad included. In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they will play on school owned equipment, but will be responsible for providing their own sticks and mallets. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade percussionist should own the following mallets and sticks:

Stick bag, concert snare drum sticks, hard plastic rubber mallets, soft yarn mallets, timpani mallets.

These items can be purchased locally at Rush's Music, Lunsford's Music, or Lane's Music. They can also be bought online at places like [steveweissmusic.com](http://steveweissmusic.com), or [wwbw.com](http://wwbw.com).

## XI. Communication:

The KMS Band program utilizes three means of communication and information dissemination. They are listed below in order of importance.

Website ([www.kmsband.org](http://www.kmsband.org))

The KMS Band website is intended to be the primary place to go for all band related information. Please check the website often for forms, postings, and calendar updates. There is also a way to register to receive and email when new information is posted.

## Remind

Remind is a free messaging service that is used by the band to send important information to specific groups of people. For example, we may send a reminder to the members of the Jazz Band about an upcoming performance. These messages are either sent to your phone as a text message or sent to your email. Instructions for signing up for Remind are available on the KMS Band website. Please register for all groups in which your child participates.

## Email

Email is used by the KMS Band to send information to large groups of people. For example, we may send out an email to the entire Band program regarding the Spring Concert.

## XII. Fundraisers and Donations

Each year, the Band program has two fundraisers (fall and spring) to help pay for the annual operating costs of the program. Given the level of funding from Knox County Schools (\$500 annually), student and parent participation in the fundraisers is **vital** to the program. Many items such as music, supplemental instruction, equipment, and supplies are directly tied to monies raised through the annual fundraisers.

Monetary donations to the Band are the most efficient way to help the Band and are always welcome. All donations should be made to Karns Middle School and be designated for use with the KMS Band. All donations are tax deductible. Should you or someone you know like to donate to the program, please contact Mr. Bowling so that he can get you the proper documentation for your taxes.

**Parents and students, please complete the forms below by August 27<sup>th</sup>. Electronic signatures are acceptable, when a signature is required.**

[Click here to complete the Band Information Form](#)

[Click here to sign the Syllabus Acknowledgement Form](#)